

Introduced by

Legislative Management

(Agriculture and Transportation Committee)

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a department of transportation long combination vehicle study
2 and pilot projects; and to provide for a legislative management report.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LONG COMBINATION VEHICLE**
5 **STUDY AND PILOT PROJECTS - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

6 1. During the 2021-22 interim, the department of transportation shall study and conduct
7 pilot projects on the feasibility and impact of long combination vehicle operations on
8 North Dakota roadways. The study must include:

9 a. An assessment of the federal regulations impacting long combination vehicle
10 operations beyond the configurations currently allowed, including configuration
11 combinations allowed in Canada and other jurisdictions;

12 b. An evaluation of the economic impact of permitting long combination vehicle
13 operations in the state;

14 c. An assessment of the impact long combination vehicle operations would have on
15 North Dakota bridges and structures;

16 d. An assessment and evaluation of road networks that are compatible with certain
17 long combination vehicle configurations, or with minor modifications, not
18 exceeding one hundred thirty feet of cargo carrying capacity unless approved by
19 the director of the department of transportation;

20 e. Implementing pilot project safety guidelines that include protocols for traffic safety
21 and inclement weather operations;

22 f. An assessment of the costs associated with implementing long combination
23 vehicle operations; and

24 g. An examination of the size and weight provisions provided under chapter 39-12.

- 1 2. If a pilot project includes operating on county, city, or township roads, an agreement
2 with local road authorities must be in place to address traffic safety considerations and
3 costs directly attributed to the pilot project.
- 4 3. The director of the department of transportation may waive certain statutory size and
5 weight restrictions for the pilot projects.
- 6 4. The department of transportation may continue any pilot project commenced under
7 subsection 1 until the department determines sufficient information has been gathered
8 to determine the pilot project is no longer necessary.
- 9 5. Before August 1, 2022, the department of transportation shall report its findings and
10 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the
11 recommendations, to the legislative management.